we consider how much we have talked, and how little *done*. Our mountains of paper destined for eternity—tally but badly with our structures, which tumble down, even before they have been completed. We have hundreds of books on the elevation of mankind—but the dwellings of our humbler classes resemble rather styes than any thing else. We have minutely analyzed effluvia and every sort of waste and offal—still they are accumulated beneath and around our cities, to make experiments, as it were, *in anima vili*. Our legislatures have debated most profusely every position and principle of public and private law, in the abstract and concrete—save one, how to make mankind live and exist in the way of human beings. Well may one be inclined to repeat to all of them: "Be gone—make room for *practical* men." [Isis of Oken.]

The "Journal of Public Instruction" of Paris contains the following remarks on the late regulation of the "*university*" system in France: "One of the main objects for which men have combined into *society*—is education; nay, these terms may be considered, after all, as synonymous; as an imperfect system of public instruction implies a defect in the social condition of the nation, and, therefore, in the government. Aside the greatest freedom of private instruction, the duty of the state to afford one, *normal* and most extensive to the mass of citizens, stands paramount. Nay, most of the highest walks of science, literature, and art cannot be taught but in establishments belonging to the nation—the state. The surest control, however, as well as the surest corrective for any abuses or deficiences in the public schools (of any kind), are private institutions, as well primary as of a higher stamp; as a people well instructed even elementarily, will never allow that error should remain enthroned in the sanctuary of knowledge, or its public establishments perverted and made use of for sordid and private purposes. The Council of University, now called into renewed existence, as one taken from amongst the number of teachers of every grade, will be the surest constitutional check on the abuses or the faults of the whole educational system of France."

J. L——v.

THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dec. 17. The treasurer in the chair. Nearly twenty members were elected, among whom were Monsieur Guizot, the Viscount Santarem, Messieurs Ch. Lenormant, Letronne, Victor Hugo, Baron Taylor, &c.

Mr. Charles Warne exhibited some Celtic or Belgic weapons in bronze, discovered in levelling a huge barrow on the estate of the Hon. Col. G. D. Damer, at Carne, Dorset, and Major Sheppard a stone celt picked up near Cissbury, Sussex. Mr. Syer Cuming communicated an account illustrated by enlarged drawings of numerous pilgrims' signs, medalets and tokens in lead, collected during excavations for the foundations of new London bridge. Mr. Planché read a letter from Mr. Mark Anthony Lower, relative to further discoveries at Lewes, which will be described in detail at the next public meeting of the association. Mr. Burkitt exhibited some ancient deeds recently brought to light, relating to property in Sussex.

Mr. W. H. Brooke, of Hastings, who had been engaged on behalf of the association to prepare drawings of mural paintings lately discovered in Battel church, communicated his report thereon, and exhibited his coloured sketches, thirteen in number. The report gave an elaborate account of the discovery, which, but for the prompt exertions of the central committee would have been fruitless to the antiquarian world, as the remains were quickly re-plastered and re-whitewashed, and no efforts were made by local authorities to preserve a record of them. They comprise many subjects, such as the trial and condemnation of our Saviour, Michael conquering Satan, saints, martyrs, &c., executed in a good style of art, and so closely resembling in many points those discovered in Preston church, near Brighton (See Archæologia), that Mr. Brooke is inclined to ascribe them to the same artist.

Mr. Crofton Croker, the secretary, informed the meeting that he had received a polite and kind reply to his application to Lord Lincoln, respecting an inquiry made by him on behalf of the association, at the suggestion of Sir Samuel Meyrick, relative to the abstraction of the sword from the statue of Charles I., at Charing-cross. His lordship had ordered an investigation to be set on foot, and at the same time stated, that any representations made by the association, relative to the better conservation of ancient national monuments, would at all times meet his attention.

Mr. Jewitt exhibited drawings in illustration of a paper on the history and architectural peculiarities of St. Giles's church, Shrewsbury, which, by reason of its length, was postponed to the next meeting.

Mr. Price inquired whether the committee had received any intelligence of the threatened distruction of Bittorn manor-house and grounds, the site of the Roman Clausentum, near Southampton, by a proposed line of railway from London, Guildford, and Petersfield.

Mr. Roach Smith congratulated the association upon the great activity of its members, in anticipating the disastrous effects of the spirt of destructiveness, and in sounding an alarm in time. The committee had already received information respecting the subject of Mr. Price's inquiry, and were prepared to adopt measures which he had no doubt, would preserve the interesting and classic spot (the property of Mrs. Stuart Hall, an associate of the association), from violation.

The meetings were then adjourned to the 14th of January.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE DISTRICT SURVEYOR OF LEWISHAM.

The following communication has been addressed to us by Mr. Badger.

Sir,—Having had my attention directed to the leading article of the last number of your publication (13th inst), containing strictures upon several of the metropolitan district surveyors, and in which also is inserted a letter with the signature of Nicholas Metherell, in reference to a certain transaction concerning myself, who therein gives a palpably incorrect and unfounded statement of particulars, I have to request that you will, as an act of justice, disabuse the public mind by finding a place in your columns for this communication, and the subjoined letter of Mr. Whitmarsh, of the Green Man Hotel, Blackheath, who has kindly furnished the facts to which he alone was privy as regards myself, and who also disclaims the honour of Mr. Metherell's acquaintance. Mr. Whitmarsh's letter is in my possession, and may be seen by any party desirous of further satisfactinn on that point. I shall only instance, in proof of the accuracy of the facts particularized with such exemplary minuteness of detail by your correspondent,—and upon whom you seem to have placed full reliance, Mr. M. gives the dimensinns of the sign-board 5 feet by 3 feet; it actually is found to be 11 feet 8 inches by 3 feet 6 inches, and is fixed with eight holdfasts, and not four, as stated. These matters, however unimportant in themselves, yet I deem worthy of notice, as shewing the value of the testimony upon which the attempt has been made to affix a stigma upon my conduct.—I am, Sir, &c.,

Charles Robert Badger.

Holwell-place, Blackheath-road,
17th Dec., 1845.

Blackheath, Dec. 10th, 1845.

Dear Sir,—I beg to state that you did not desire to exact thirty shillings for the fixing of the sign-board against the stable wall which Mr. Tomlinson rents of me, but stated, that he was liable for that amount, not having given notice. You also stated, that you had to make up your monthly account, and that your charge was ten shillings, which I paid you for Mr. Tomlinson.—I remain, yours truly,

Thos. Whitmarsh.

To C. Badger, Esq., &c.

We feel it necessary first to remark, that previous to the receipt of these letters, we were ignorant of the name of the district surveyor complained of, not being aware that Mr. Badger's district included Blackheath.

We immediately sent to our informant requiring that he should substantiate his statement, or retract it, and the following is his reply:—

Sir,—On the 3rd of December Mr. Tomlinson solicited my opinion, after shewing me the sign-board, saying the district surveyor has made me pay 10s. for fixing it: he wanted 30s., and if I can I will *trounce* him for it (meaning *prosecute*). I told Mr. Tomlinson that I could not sufficiently inform him so as to guide him in any ulterior proceeding, but that The Builder would perhaps give an opinion if asked. He then requested me to write, and he repeated that he had paid 10s., and that the district surveyor wanted 30s., and he shewed me the receipt for 10s.

On the appearance of my statement in The Builder on the 13th instant, I went to him, and he again said what I had written was correct. On my receiving an intimation from The Builder that Mr. Badger had denied the truth of my statement, I again went to see Mr. Tomlinson, who wished me to go with him and see Mr. Whitmarsh on the subject (till now I was not aware Mr. Whitmarsh had any thing to do in the matter). Mr. Whitmarsh then told me that Mr. Badger had called, and in a very humble manner, supplicated him to enable him (Mr. Badger) to clear himself before his brother district surveyors, who were disposed to censure him for what appeared in The Builder. Mr. Whitmarsh said he did then write a statement for him, in some degree altering the appearance of the complaint against him. Mr. Whitmarsh did at the same time say that what I had written was correct, or very nearly, and that what he wrote for Mr. Badger was a mere act of kindness.

On Friday last I received from Mr. Badger a letter threatening legal proceedings, unless I would insert in The Builder a denial of the truth of my statement, and reading it to Mr. Whitmarsh and Mr. Tomlinson they appeared surprised. Mr. Tomlinson said, Mr. Badger did demand 30s., and Mr. Whitmarsh assured me that whatever he might have written on behalf of Mr. Badger was from the peculiar manner in which he was solicited, and on account of his situation as a public officer. Mr. Whitmarsh adds more, "if I am to give evidence in this matter in a court of justice and on oath, I shall be obliged to say that the demand was tantamount to a demand of 30s., and if what I wrote on his behalf, be held up against me, I shall be obliged to say, consideration for the individual was the inducement." I cannot come to Mr. Badger's terms, considering that I have only acted straightforwardly, and have kept to the truth; waiting the result.—I remain, your most obedient servant,

N. Metherell.

6, Bath-terrace, Horsemonger-lane.

We do not publish this letter willingly, as we have no desire to injure any man; but Mr. Badger having called on us to insert his denial, we feel bound to allow our correspondent to speak for himself. We trust sincerely that this and other circumstances will induce Mr. Badger to take a different view of his position, and administer the duties confided to him with more moderation and a less exacting spirit, than he has heretofore exhibited.

TO TAKE PAINT OFF OAK PANELLING.

Sir,—I beg to inform "F. R. L." that the best and only method of removing paint from oak panelling, carving, &c., is as follows:—make a strong solution of *American potash* (which can be bought at any colour shop, and resembles burnt brick in appearance); mix this with sawdust, and make a sort of paste, and spread it all over the paint, which will become softened after a few hours, and is easily removed by washing with cold water. If, after the panelling, &c., is dry, it becomes cracked, apply a solution of hot size with a brush, which will bind it well together, and make it better for varnishing, as well as destroy the beetle which is often met with in old oak, and is erroneously called the *worm*. If "F. R. L." wishes to make old dark oak *pale in colour*, apply with a brush a little dilute nitric acid, *judiciously*; if he requires it to be *dark*, let him stain it with dregs of black ink and burnt umber mixed. As I have adopted all these methods very often, I can say that they answer most successfully, as my specimens of old oak furniture and carvings shew. "F. R. L." had better at first try these plans on oak not of much value, as to make a good job requires *care*, *practice*, and *attention*.—I am, Sir, &c.,

London, Dec. 20th, 1845. Amateur.

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